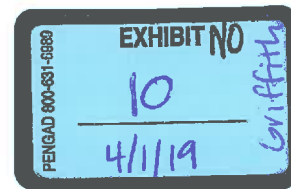


**JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE**



Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Circuit Court Judge; Second Judicial Circuit, Seat 2

1. Name: Honorable Maurice Anderson Griffith
Mrs.
Ms.

Name that you are known by if different from above
(Example: A Nickname): Andy Griffith, M. Anderson Griffith

Are you currently serving in some capacity as a judge? If part-time, please note.
(Includes Municipal, Magistrate, Etc.) Master in Equity for Aiken County

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Business Address: Aiken County Courthouse, 109 Park Avenue SE, Aiken, S.C. 29801

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: (home): [REDACTED]
(office): 803-642-2025
(cell): [REDACTED]

2. Date of Birth: [REDACTED] 1958
Place of Birth: Charleston, South Carolina
Social Security Number [REDACTED]

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes
Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes

4. SCDL# or SCHD#: [REDACTED]
Voter Registration Number: [REDACTED]

5. Have you served in the military? No
If so, give the dates, branch of service, highest rank attained, serial number (if applicable), present status, and the character of your discharge or release. Please provide a copy of your DD214 concerning your discharge.

6. Family Status: In the space below, (a) state whether you are single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated; (b) if married, state the date of your marriage and your spouse's full name; (c) if you have ever been divorced or are in the process of obtaining a divorce, state the date, name of the moving party, court, and grounds; and (d) state the names of your

children and their ages. If your children are old enough to work, include the occupation of each child.

Family Status: married on August 20, 1983 to Anne Gentilucci Griffith

Never Divorced, three children



7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
 - (a) University of South Carolina at Aiken, Aiken, South Carolina, Associates of Science in Criminal Justice, 1979.
 - (b) University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice, 1981;
 - (c) University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, Juris Doctor Degree, 1988.
8. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at law school. Give the years you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.
 - (a) I participated in the Mock Trial competitions;
 - (b) I was married during law school and was a law clerk for the Mullis Law Firm in Columbia, South Carolina and for Rogers, Duncan, Fullwood & Derek in Lexington, South Carolina.
9. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. Please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.

I was admitted to practice law in South Carolina in 1988. I took the law exam once in 1988.
10. Describe chronologically, since graduation from law school, your legal experience. Please include a list of all positions held in which you worked in a legal capacity. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years. Please also describe the extent to which you were involved with the administrative and financial management of each of these entities, including management of trust accounts.
 - (a) After graduating from law school, I began working with the law firm of Bodenheimer, Busbee & Hunter. I became a partner in that firm approximately two years later. The firm later changed the name to Busbee, Hunter & Griffith. I served as president the last few years until my appointment as Master in Equity for Aiken County in June 2011. I would describe my involvement with the administrative and financial duties of the partnership to be divided among the three attorneys. I had a more active

role the last five years. After my appointment, the two remaining attorneys continued to operate the office until they retired. Since my position is full time, I no longer engaged in any private practice.

- (b) In 1990, I began serving as the municipal judge for the Town of Wagener. The primary duties were to conduct a bench and jury trials in criminal matters each month. I would also review the reports to be provided to the South Carolina Court Administration. This provided an enjoyable experience of dealing with the local police, the employees and the general public of the town. I would normally have one day scheduled for jury trials each month and another day to have bench trials on traffic ticket cases and other criminal cases within the jurisdiction of the Municipal Court.
- (c) Initially, my private practice involved personal injury cases, workers compensation matters and criminal defense work. I began to develop a practice that involved representing homeowners, subcontractors and general contractors on contract matters. These cases would often involve filing mechanic liens, partition actions, boundary disputes, actions involving different types of easements, owner financing lease issues that involve equitable claims by the buyer as well as claims for specific performance. I continued to develop that practice during the last 10 to 15 years prior to my appointment in 2011. Almost all of these cases were non-jury and any hearings were before the Master in Equity or a Special Referee.
- (d) In 1996, I began serving as the attorney for the Town of Jackson in Aiken County. This involved attending Council meetings when requested by the town, researching issues and handling any criminal trials or appeals from the Municipal Court. In 2006, I also began serving as the attorney for the City of New Ellenton. This involved similar duties that I performed with the Town of Jackson. Income from both of these was paid to the law firm and not to me individually.
- (e) Since my appointment as Master in Equity in June 2011 I have had thousands of cases referred and completed. The types of cases have varied but include foreclosure, boundary disputes, easement cases, road closing cases, breach of contract matters, quiet title actions, structured settlement approvals and minor settlements along with various other civil actions.

Justices/judges applying for re-election to their current position may omit Questions 11-17. If you are a full-time judge seeking a judgeship different than your current position, Questions 11-17 should be answered based on your experience prior to serving on the bench.

11. Please answer the following:

- (a) If you are a candidate for Family Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience within each of the following Family Court practice areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, abuse and neglect, and

juvenile justice. Include information about cases you have handled in each of these practice areas, or if you have not practiced in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court Judge. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Family Court Judge within the past five years. I am not a candidate for the Family Court.

- (b) If you are a candidate for Circuit Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience in criminal matters, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the issues involved. Further, please provide a brief written description of your experience in civil matters, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the types of matters handled, issues involved, and procedural history. Please include information such as the primary areas in civil court in which you practice, whether you represent plaintiffs or defendants, or both. You may go back further than five years if you feel it would assist the Commission with its assessment of your experience. If you lack experience in an area, describe how your background and procedural knowledge has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Circuit Court Judge, or how you would compensate for your lack of experience in this area. Please also indicate the frequency of your appearances before a Circuit Court Judge within the past five years.

I have been the Master in Equity for Aiken County since June 2011. This answer discusses my practice prior to that time.

The majority of my experience in criminal matters occurred during my first ten years in private practice. I represented defendants in municipal and magistrate court in Aiken County. These cases were traffic cases, driving under the influence, and other matters heard in these courts. I prosecuted cases as part of my work for the towns of New Ellenton and Jackson in Aiken County. I was the municipal judge in Wagener for approximately six years. I would conduct jury trials each month for various criminal offenses.

I represented defendants on various charges in circuit court. Some of these included receiving stolen goods, drug charges, and several criminal sexual conduct cases. All of the cases resulted in plea agreements or an agreement to allow the defendant to enter a pretrial intervention program. I was appointed on numerous Post Conviction Relief cases. Those were resolved with a hearing or the withdrawal of the petition by the petitioner.

Since I have not practiced in the General Sessions Court in some time, I recognize the need to review procedural matters, appellate decisions, and to attend continuing education conferences with an emphasis in the criminal trial area.

I represented plaintiffs and defendants in a variety of civil matters. I represented plaintiffs in personal injury matters that would include negligence claims as a result

of automobile collisions and premises liability cases. Prior to the settlement in a civil matter, I would normally file the lawsuit, initiate written discovery, conduct depositions, and prepare for trial.

I also represented plaintiffs in medical malpractice cases. I conducted the initial interviews, obtained and reviewed the medical records, and decided if a review by an expert was needed before accepting the case. At that point, I would associate another law firm that had considerable experience in this area. The depositions were divided between the two firms. We worked together to prepare discovery responses and for mediation. Based on that preparation and the presentation, we were successful in reaching an agreement in mediation.

I developed a practice involving various contract and property claims. These would include breach of contract claims, mechanic liens, easement cases, boundary line disputes, partition actions, and other claims. These cases would normally be heard by the Master in Equity. I represented both plaintiffs and defendant in these matters. As with other cases, I drafted pleadings, prepared discovery, and participate in depositions.

(d) If you are a candidate for Master-In-Equity, please provide a brief written description of your experience in the Master's court, including any cases handled over the past five years and include a brief description of the issues involved. Please include the frequency of your appearances before a Master-In-Equity or a Circuit Court Judge within the past five years.

(d) If you are a candidate for Administrative Law Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience before an Administrative Law Judge, including any issues discussed and the frequency of your appearances before the Administrative Law or Circuit Court within the past five years. I am not a candidate for the Administrative Law Court.

12. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench? These answers apply to the five years before my appointment to the bench:

(a) federal: No Appearances; One case was removed to the federal court and was resolved by settlement.

(b) state: In the Court of Common Pleas, I believe I had approximately thirty cases pending with the clerk of court when I was appointed to my current position in June 2011. I also had many other civil cases in my office to prepare for filing or settlement. My civil caseload for the last five years in private practice was very active. I was scheduled to appear at most or all of the non-jury roster calls and the motion dockets in Aiken County, South Carolina. I had filed a complaint or an answer in litigated matters approximately 170 times in the five years prior to my appointment. Most of my criminal defense work was performed in my first ten years of private practice. Prior to that time, our firm did not handle any criminal

defense matters. I also prosecuted municipal cases for Jackson and New Ellenton since I served as the town attorney.

13. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench?
- (a) civil: 75%
 - (b) criminal: 5% including cases I prosecuted as the attorney for Jackson and New Ellenton.
 - (c) domestic: 15.0%
 - (d) other: 5.0%

14. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the past five years or in the five years prior to your election to the bench involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?
- (a) jury: 25%
 - (b) non-jury: 75%

During the past five years, did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel? My last five years prior to my appointment would have been as sole counsel in a majority of cases and co-counsel in medical malpractice matters.

15. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.
- (a) Ippolito v. Hospitality Management Associates, 352 S.C. 563, 575 S.E. 2d 562 (S.C. App. 2003). This was a case of first impression that involved the South Carolina "Innkeepers Statute", S.C. Code Ann. 45-1-40 (1976). The lower court case was a jury trial.
 - (b) Mims v. Myers, et.al., Op. No. 2004-UP-556 S.C. Ct. App. filed November 4, 2004. The issue on appeal dealt with the validity of a tax sale. The Court affirmed the decision. The lower court case was a non-jury trial.
 - (c) J. E. Stewart Builders, Inc. v. Szabo, Op. No. 2003-UP- 185 filed March 6, 2003. The case involved an appeal by Szabo of the lower court decision. It involved a claim for unfair trade practice in the use of a draftsman. The Appellate Court affirmed the decision. The lower court case was a jury trial.
 - (d) Combs v. Barton, No. 07-CP-02-1868 (Aiken, S.C. Ct. Common Pleas, November 1, 2010). This issue in this case was interpretation of S.C. Code Ann. 40-59-810 et seq. This was a relatively new statute but was important for parties filing a lawsuit or defending the case in construction disputes. The statute concerned the proper procedure to offer a contractor the chance to cure any defects before a lawsuit can be filed.
 - (e) Dandy v. American Laundry Machinery, Inc. 301 S.C. 24, 389 S.E. 2d 866 (S.C. 1990). The case was eventually argued before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. I prepared and argued the appeal in this matter. The case clarified the requirements at that time for tolling the statute of limitations with an out of state corporation.

16. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported.

(a) Ippolito v. Hospitality Management Associates, 352 S.C. 563, 575 S.E. 2d 562 (S.C. App. 2003). This was a case of first impression that involved the South Carolina "Innkeepers Statute", S.C. Code Ann. 45-1-40 (1976). The lower court case was a jury trial. The Appellate Court affirmed the Circuit Court. This was a jury trial.

(b) Mims v. Myers, et.al. Op. No. 2004-UP-556 S.C. Ct. App. filed November 4, 2004. The issue on appeal dealt with the validity of a tax sale. The Court affirmed the decision. The lower court case was a non- jury trial.

(c) J. E. Stewart Builders, Inc. v. Szabo, Op. No. 2003-UP- 185 filed March 6, 2003. The case involved an appeal by Szabo of the lower court decision. It involved a claim for unfair trade practice in the use of a draftsman. The Court affirmed the decision. The lower court case was a jury trial.

(d) American General Finance, Inc. v. Griffin et al, (Edgefield, S. C. Ct. Common Pleas, January 21, 2009). The case was settled during the appeal. It involved an argument that the Special Referee erred in finding that the appellant had not established the defense of mutual mistake by clear and convincing evidence.

(e) Dandy v. American Laundry Machinery, Inc. 301 S.C. 24, 389 S.E. 2d 866 (S.C. 1990). The case was eventually argued before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. I prepared and argued the appeal in this matter. It clarified the requirements at that time for tolling the statute of limitations with an out of state corporation.

17. List up to five criminal appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported.

I have not filed any appeals from the General Sessions Court. The only criminal appeals I handled are the appeals from the magistrate court to the circuit court.

18. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the courts involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.

I was appointed the Aiken County Master in Equity on June 13, 2011. S. C. Code Annotated 14 – 1 – 10, et al establishes the master in equity court. It also provides for the appointment, compensation and powers for the Master-in-Equity. The equity courts are a division of the circuit court. Pursuant to Rule 53, SCRCP, the authority for the master in equity in a particular case is based on the order of reference. Rule 71 SCRCP, provides the responsibilities for the master in equity in foreclosure and partition actions.

19. If the answer to question 18 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions.

- (a) Three Runs Plantation v. Jay Jacobs; Lower Court Case Number No. 2011CP0200548; Appellate Case No. 2013-002305; This involved a complicated matter between the homeowner and the developer. This was a four day trial that involved interpreting the subdivision restrictions, breach of the sales contract, voting rights claim and the attorney fees. The decision was affirmed on appeal.
 - (b) Randall v. Borst; 2015-CP-02-01076; This was a two day trial that involved an allegation of assault and battery, damages, and violations of the South Carolina Residential Landlord Tenant Act.
 - (c) Riley v. Griffin; 2012-CP-02-02770; This trial involved numerous parties in a subdivision and concerned access to the riding or recreation trails that also allowed entry into Hitchcock Woods. Each of the plaintiffs' claims had to be evaluated separately as to the type of easement and the use that was allowed under any agreement. I believe it also involved a trespass claim.
 - (d) Wilson v. Douglas; 2011-CP-02-00755; I believe this was a three day trial and the case dealt with water flow damaging the property of the neighbors, easement claims, trespass claims and a determination of damages.
 - (e) Robertson v. Huddle House; 2016-CP-02-01550; Appellate Case No. 2017-000748 ; This case involved a claim by the landlord against Huddle house claiming that he could evict on thirty days notice. Huddle House had assumed the position of the tenant through a series of agreements. The case required the court to evaluate the testimony and the lease, a collateral assignment of lease and the franchise agreement. The plaintiff filed an appeal and the appellate court affirmed the decision.
20. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.
- (a) I was admitted to practice in the South Carolina state courts in 1988;
 - (b) I was admitted to practice in the South Carolina District Court in 1990.
21. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.
- (a) Organized the topics and speakers for the 2014 Masters-in-Equity Bench Bar held on October 10, 2014. This is a one day continuing education program.
 - (b) Speaker at the South Carolina Association of Clerks and Registers of Deeds Fall Conference in 2017. The topic of the program concerned the procedure and issues in filing a mechanic's lien.
 - (c) As President of the Master in Equity Association, I was responsible for arranging for speakers during annual judicial conference and our meetings during the circuit court judge conference.

22. Provide, as a separate attachment, your continuing legal or judicial education report from the past five years. Copies are attached.
23. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.

I have not published any books or articles.

24. Please furnish as a separate attachment, two examples of legal articles, briefs, orders, or other legal writings for which you can claim sole or primary authorship. If you cannot claim sole authorship, please explain the extent to which you are the primary author, to include a description of the other authors and their contributions. The writing samples are for the Commission's use only and will not be published. (If you are a judge and are not seeking a different type of judgeship, this question is inapplicable.)

(a) Three Runs Plantation Homeowners Association, Inc. V. Jacobs Order.

(b) Wilson v. Douglas Order

25. What is your rating or membership status, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, Best Lawyers, Chambers, Legal 500, Martindale-Hubbell, Who's Who Legal, Super Lawyers, Million Dollar Advocates Forum, etc.? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.

I believe it was BV.

26. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.

(a) Aiken County Bar; past president

(b) South Carolina Bar Association

(c) South Carolina Masters in Equity Association; past president

27. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the office or offices involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Also, state whether or not you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty? If so, give details, including dates.

I have never held a public office prior to my current position as the Master in Equity for Aiken County.

28. For sitting or former judges, list all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor.

The Master in Equity for Aiken County is a full-time position. I have had no other employment while serving as a judge.

29. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates.

I have never been an unsuccessful candidate for any elective, judicial or other public office.

30. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office? If so, give details, including a description of your occupation, business, or profession, the dates of your employment, and the name of your business or employer.

- (a) Charleston City Police Department, Charleston, South Carolina; June 1981 to November 1983; Senior – Private First Class; I worked in the uniform division after I graduated with a criminal justice degree.
- (b) Wackenhut Securities, Inc. Savannah River Plant, Aiken, South Carolina; November 1983 to August 1985; I was a sergeant in the law enforcement division. My duties included assisting in the initial training related to law enforcement, supervision of personnel in the day-to-day duties and training.

31. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? Explain the nature of the business, your duties, and the term of your service.

No

32. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a “lobbyist,” as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a “lobbyist’s principal,” as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? If so, give the dates of your employment or activity in such capacity and specify by whom you were directed or employed.

No

33. Provide, **as a separate attachment**, a complete, current financial net worth statement that itemizes in detail: A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission

- (a) the identity and value of all financial assets held, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate, securities, trusts, investments, and other financial holdings; and
- (b) the identity and amount of each liability owed, directly or indirectly, which is in excess of \$1,000, including, but not limited to, debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations.

(A net worth statement form is provided with this questionnaire and you must use this format for submission of your financial statement.)

NOTE: The Commission may require written confirmation that financial obligations have been satisfied or that the parties have agreed upon a payment schedule.

34. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? If so, give details.

I have never filed bankruptcy or defaulted on a student loan. In 2002, the South Carolina Department of Revenue filed a tax lien on January 24, 2002. I paid that within two weeks and it was satisfied on February 4, 2002. On March 19, 2008, the South Carolina Department of Revenue filed a tax lien for penalty and interest. When no agreement was reached, I paid that amount and it was marked as satisfied on July 15, 2008.

35. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? If so, please specify the item or items you received, the date of receipt, and the lobbyist or lobbyist's principal involved.

No

36. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. If you have spent over \$100, have you reported your expenditures to the House and Senate Ethics Committees?

None

37. List the recipient and amount of all contributions made by you, a member of your immediate family, or by a business with whom you are associated, to members of the General Assembly within the past four years.

None

38. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? If so, please specify the amount, solicitor, donor, and date of the solicitation.

No

39. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek or currently hold. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.

- (a) My employment as the attorney for the Town of Jackson and the City of New Ellenton could create a conflict if those entities were involved in the litigation. I have been the current Master-in-Equity since 2011 and have not represented those entities since 2011.
- (b) I practiced law with the same two attorneys for twenty three years. Those individuals have retired from the practice of law but a conflict would exist if they appeared as parties in a case before my court. Those matters would be referred to a Special Referee.
- (c) Prior clients may be a conflict and I verify if a conflict may exist when my office receives an Order of Reference. If it involves an existing client when I left private practice in 2011 or a client I had represented in an ongoing relationship, I recuse myself, decline the order of reference or the relationship is disclosed to the parties to allow an opportunity for a motion to recuse myself.
- (d) My wife works in the Lexington County School District. Although unlikely, I would recuse myself if any action involved that school district. I am not aware of a case involving this entity in Aiken County but list it based on the question.

40. Describe any interest you or a member of your immediate family has in real property:
- (a) in which there is a potential conflict of interest with your involvement in a South Carolina state or local public agency;
 - (b) in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more that adjoins property in which there have been public improvements of \$200 or more; or
 - (c) which was sold, leased, or rented to a state or local public agency in South Carolina.

None

List the interest you hold and the value and location of the property. Identify as applicable the:

- (a) nature of any potential conflict of interest;
- (b) nature and value of any public improvements; and
- (c) South Carolina state or local public agency which purchased or is leasing or renting such property.

Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

41. Identify any personal property interest you or a member of your immediate family sold, leased, or rented to a South Carolina state or local public agency. Identify the property, its amount or value, and the name of the agency. Attach a copy of any contract or agreement.

None

42. For sitting judges, if you currently hold an interest in stock or other securities or have held such an interest, list each stock you currently own or owned during the prior calendar year. If you prefer, you may attach broker or account records containing the requested information instead of listing it here.

None; I have an IRA and participate in the South Carolina Retirement Fund. My wife contributes to her South Carolina Retirement Fund and has an account with Valic.

43. For sitting judges, have you ever accepted anything of value from an attorney or litigant in a matter currently or previously before you or your court? If so, please give the details, including the name of the attorney or litigant and the thing of value you received.

No

44. For sitting judges, have you used the services of your staff, for which you did not pay, while campaigning for this office?

No

45. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? If so, give details but do not include traffic violations which are subject to a penalty of \$125 or less. You must include any and all arrests, including, but not limited to, offenses for driving under the influence or similar traffic offenses. Include all arrests that resulted in expungement, which will be redacted. If you have questions regarding whether to include an offense, please contact the Commission.

[All answers have been received and considered by the Commission, and as noted above, any expunged matters are redacted from the record.]

46. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? If yes, explain.

No

47. Have you ever been sued by a client? Have you ever been a named party (personally or professionally) in or had a pecuniary interest in any civil or criminal proceedings? If so, give details, including, but not limited to, dates, and resolutions.

a. In 1988 – 1989 I was named as a defendant in a lawsuit involving Wackenhut Securities, Inc. The case involved a driving under the influence arrest made by patrolman under my supervision. After depositions were completed, the case was dismissed.

b. In 2004, I was named in an action as the defendant in a case filed by a former client. This involved a statute of limitations matter and was settled prior to trial. Our firm was responsible for the payment of the deductible.

48. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? If applicable, have you ever been covered

by a tail policy? If so, please explain when you were covered by a tail policy. Also, if applicable, indicate your coverage and deductible for your current malpractice policy.

I am not in private practice. My law firm did maintain a malpractice policy for the entire time I was in private practice.

49. Have you ever, in South Carolina or any other jurisdiction, as a lawyer, judge, or other professional, been sanctioned or disciplined for lawyer, judicial, or other professional misconduct or has any jurisdiction found that you committed any misconduct? If so, give the details and describe any final disposition. Include any and all confidential and public sanction, discipline, or finding of misconduct of any kind.

[Yes and no responses are redacted for all candidates unless there is a public discipline.]

50. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? If so, give the details and the resolution. Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect? If so, give the details.

No

Note: The flash drive with your application materials contains (1) Section 2-19-70(c); (2) JMSC Rule 24, (3) Memo of Guidance, and (4) informal opinions and letters concerning pledging prohibitions, with which third parties acting on your behalf, as well as you, must comply.

51. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened or have you been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? If so, give details.

No

52. Have you requested any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Describe the campaigning you have done for this election and include a list of those individuals you have asked to campaign on your behalf and, to the best of your knowledge, those who have campaigned for you on their own initiative.

No

53. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges until after the draft report becomes final, which occurs on the day and time specified on the Commission's published screening schedule?

I am familiar with the 48 – hour rule.

54. Since submitting your letter of intent to become a candidate, have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted any member of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? If so, give details.

No

55. List the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) persons from whom you are providing references. Also, provide the Commission with original letters of recommendation from each person listed herein, including their signature (preferably in blue ink). **The Commission will not accept a photocopy or electronic submission of a letter of recommendation and failure to include all five (5) original letters of recommendation in your packet when you submit it will render your packet incomplete.** Please **do not** have references mail your reference letters to the Commission directly. *You must return the five (5) original letters of recommendation to the Commission with your application packet.*

(a) Jeanie P. Cole; [REDACTED]

(b) Dantzler Busbee. [REDACTED]

(c) Paul Blanton. [REDACTED]

(d) David Hill, [REDACTED]

(e) Jo Ann Scott. [REDACTED]

56. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site or have you, to your knowledge, been featured or depicted on a social media or Internet site, such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.? If so, how would your use of social media or other similar types of Internet sites be affected if you were serving in a judicial capacity?

I am not an active member of any social media. To my knowledge, I have not been featured or depicted on any social media or internet site as described in the question.

57. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere.

(a) South Carolina Masters in Equity Association; past President

58. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek. This information may include how your life experiences have affected or influenced the kind or type of judge you have been or plan to be.

After graduating from law school, I began working with the law firm of Bodenheimer, Busbee & Hunter. I became a partner in that firm approximately two years later. The firm later changed the name to Busbee, Hunter & Griffin. I served as president until my appointment as Master in Equity for Aiken County in June 2011.

In 1990, I began serving as the municipal judge for the Town of Wagener. The primary duties were to conduct a bench and jury trials each month. I would also review the reports to be provided to the South Carolina Court Administration. This provided an enjoyable experience of dealing with the local police, the employees and the general public of the town. I would normally have one day scheduled for jury trials each month and another day to have bench trials on traffic ticket cases and other criminal cases within the jurisdiction of the Municipal Court.

Initially, my private practice involved personal injury cases, workers compensation matters and some criminal defense work. I began to develop a practice that involved representing homeowners, subcontractors and general contractors on contract matters. These cases would often involve filing mechanic liens, partition actions, boundary disputes, actions involving different types of easements, owner financing leases that involve equitable claims by the buyer as well as claims for specific performance. I continued to develop that practice during the last 10 to 15 years prior to my appointment in 2011. Almost all of these cases were non-jury and any hearings were before the Master in Equity or a Special Referee.

In 1996, I began serving as the attorney for the Town of Jackson in Aiken County. This involved attending Council meetings when requested by the town, researching issues and handling any criminal trials or appeals from the Municipal Court. In 2006, I also began serving as the attorney for the City of New Ellenton. This involved similar duties that I performed with the Town of Jackson. Income from both of these was paid to the law firm and not to me individually.

Since my appointment as Master in Equity in June 2011 I have had thousands of cases referred and completed. The types of cases have varied but include foreclosure, boundary disputes, easement cases, road closing cases, breach of contract matters, quiet title actions, structured settlement approvals and minor settlements along with various other civil actions.

YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE HELD TO CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE
CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY PROCEEDING BEFORE A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OR
ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CREDIT.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF
MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature: _____

Sworn to before me this ____ day of _____, 2019.

(Notary Signature)

(Notary Printed Name)
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: _____